Illinois Broadband Advisory Council

Regular Meeting | May 12, 2021

BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Introductory Remarks from the Chair
- Approval of Minutes
- Office of Broadband Updates
  - Connect Illinois Grant Program
  - Digital Equity Package
  - Working Groups (Smart Cities, Rural Innovation, Digital Equity & Inclusion)
- Stakeholder Updates
  - Computer Equity Network | Andrea Lindsay, PCs for People
    Dr. Jaison McCall, PCs for People
  - FCC Precision Agriculture Task Force | Heather Hampton Knodle
- Illinois Broadband Map Demo
- Federal Updates | Gigi Sohn, Georgetown Law Center, Benton Institute for Broadband & Society
- Public Comment
- Next Meeting – September 15, 2021

ILLINOIS OFFICE OF BROADBAND
PROGRAMMING

Infrastructure

- Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program

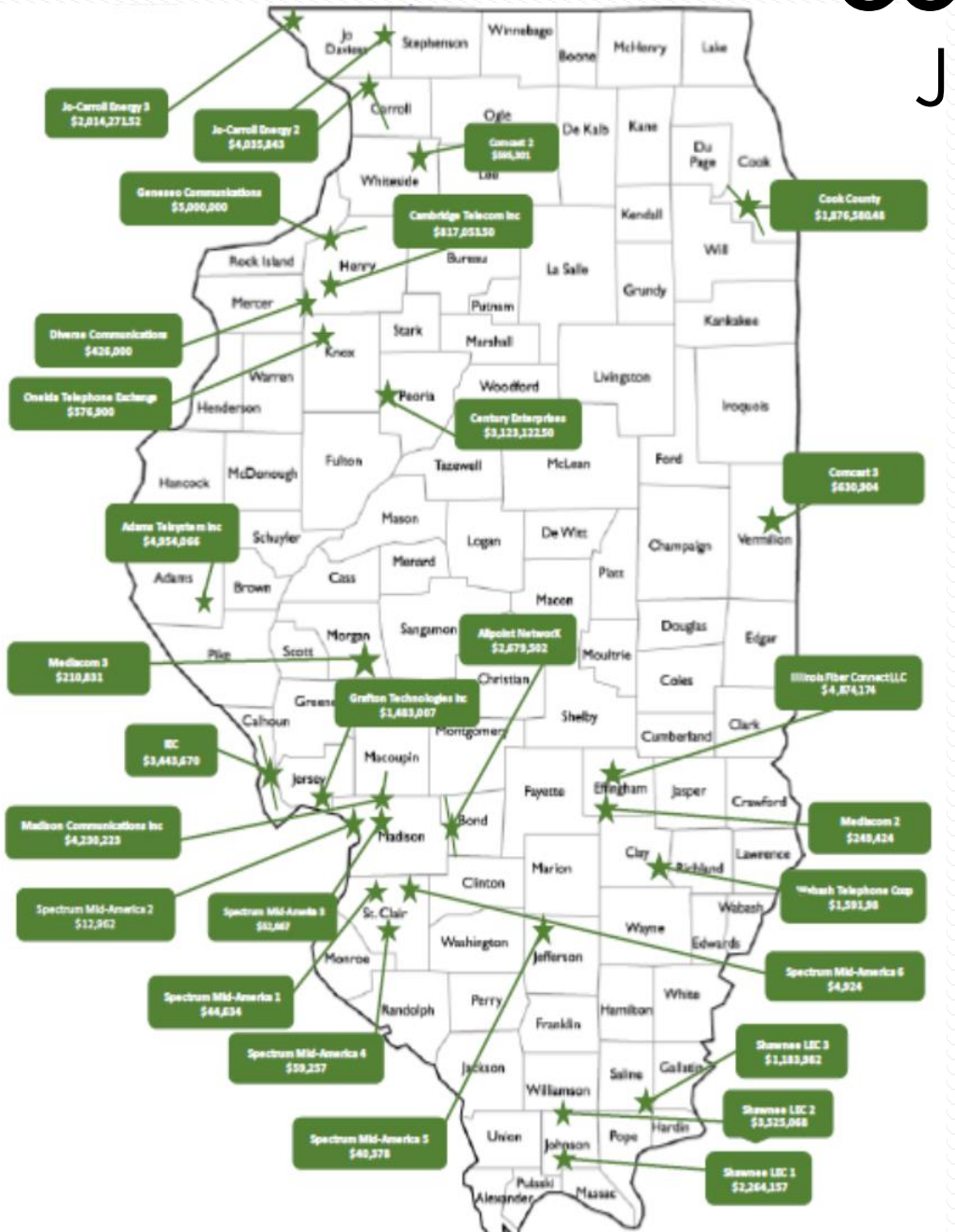
Digital Equity

- Illinois Connected Communities
- Broadband READY (Regional Collaboration for Adoption + Digital Equity)
- Digital Navigator Program
- Connect Illinois Computer Equity Network

CONNECT ILLINOIS
BROADBAND GRANTS

- Program Summary
  - Grant to support broadband infrastructure that meets or exceeds state goals
- Grant Amount
  - Up to $5M; $50M available statewide
- Four Categories
  - Broadband Access
  - Broadband Innovation
  - Urban Broadband
  - Broadband Equity
- Application Deadline
  - April 12, 2021

CONNECT ILLINOIS RD 1
JUNE 2020 AWARDS



- $50M state + $65M nonstate match = $115M investment
- 26,000+ new/improved connections to homes, farms, biz, community anchors
- 28 projects, 18 different grantees (17 providers + one local government)
- 39 applications; 37 applications were complete and/or responsive to NOFO
- Strong cross-section of provider representation

CONNECT ILLINOIS RD 2
MERIT + MAPPING REVIEW

Between Application Deadline + Award Announcement:

- Merit Review
- Mapping Review

Milestones

- April 12 | Application Deadline
- April 26 | Rd 2 Proposal Map Posted
- May 24 | Mapping Review Inquiry Deadline
- TBD | Rd 2 Award Announcement

Connect Illinois

Governor Pritzker is committed to establishing Illinois as a leader when it comes to technology and innovation. Access to broadband is a critical component of staying ahead of the curve and will improve the lives of families, entrepreneurs, farmers and other Illinoisans who rely on high-speed broadband for everything from healthcare to education.

HOME
- Connect Illinois
- Low-Cost Broadband
- Computer Equity Network
- Making Connections
- Federal Broadband
- Strategic Plan
- Newsletter

MAPS AND DATA
- Drive-Up Wi-Fi Map
- Interactive Map
- Illinois Century Network

Governor Pritzker launched a statewide initiative in August 2019, Connect Illinois, to expand broadband access across the entire state. Connect Illinois includes a capital investment from Rebuild Illinois, the creation of a Broadband Advisory Council and Broadband Office, and a new program that will provide all Illinois public K-12 students access to high-speed broadband at no charge. The initiative also includes a $400 million broadband grant program and a $20 million capital program for the Illinois Century Network, a high-speed broadband network serving K-12 and higher education institutions, among others.

The first round of funding was announced in June 2020. Please see more information on the announcement. The second funding round is accepting applications until April 12, 2021. More information available here.

For more information on the Connect Illinois launch, click here.

Illinois Broadband Grant Program

Rebuild Illinois, the Illinois infrastructure program, includes $400 million to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for a statewide broadband deployment grant program. This appropriation will begin to expand access to reliable, high-speed internet service statewide. According to the USDA, fully utilizing digital technologies within the agriculture industry could create approximately $47 to $65 billion annually in additional gross benefit for the U.S. economy.

Illinois Century Network

Rebuild Illinois includes $20 million for the Illinois Century Network (ICN), to repair and expand the broadband network for schools, refresh aged components of the network and expand the existing network, with a focus on the K-12 portion.

DIGITAL EQUITY GRANTS

- Communities Rd 1
- Communities NOCO
- Navigator NOCO
- Webinar

BROADBAND GRANTS

- Grant Eligibility Map
- Mapping Review
- Rd 1 Map
- Rd 1 Summaries
- Fedcelerator Framework
- Webinar
- FAQs

ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Membership
- Affordability Study

Mapping Review

The Illinois Office of Broadband is currently reviewing Round 2 Connect Illinois grant applications. To assist this effort we've created the Connect Illinois Round 2 Proposals layer within the 'Grant Eligibility Map' that includes the proposed deployment footprint and a brief description for each project.

Before Connect Illinois broadband grants are awarded, applicants will have an opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the Grant Eligibility Map. Likewise, incumbent broadband providers will be allowed to challenge the eligibility of a grant application on the basis of current available broadband service or near-term planned broadband deployment.

Between now and 5pm on Monday, May 24, we're asking Connect Illinois stakeholders to reconcile these mapping layers against their own broadband service data and/or deployment plans. **For instance, should any area of the map include proposed Connect Illinois broadband deployment AND understate existing service levels, we want to hear about it!**

Specifically, please provide the Office of Broadband with shapefiles and/or specific location addresses that you can demonstrate have service at or above the program speed thresholds of 25/3 Mbps and/or 100/20 Mbps, respectively. Information to this end should be submitted to broadband@illinois.gov with the subject heading "Broadband Mapping: [*and a brief area description*].

This "mapping review" begins a conversation between the Office of Broadband and the Connect Illinois stakeholder. No awards will be made without an opportunity for dialogue on the mapping and service levels in question. The Office of Broadband is committed to making this process as user-friendly and transparent as reasonably possible, and we intend to learn and apply what we can from the processes introduced during the first round of the Connect Illinois grant program. To this end, we welcome all feedback as we seek to improve and refine this process moving forward.

DIGITAL EQUITY GRANTS

- Communities Rd 1
- Communities NOCO
- Navigator NOCO
- Webinar

BROADBAND GRANTS

- Grant Eligibility Map
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- FAQs

ADVISORY COUNCIL

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CONNECT ILLINOIS RD 3
PREVIEW

- Planned Timeline
- Expected Funding
- Anticipated Approach
  - Similarities to Rds 1 + 2
  - New characteristics

ILLINOIS OFFICE OF BROADBAND
PROGRAMMING

Infrastructure

- Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program

Digital Equity

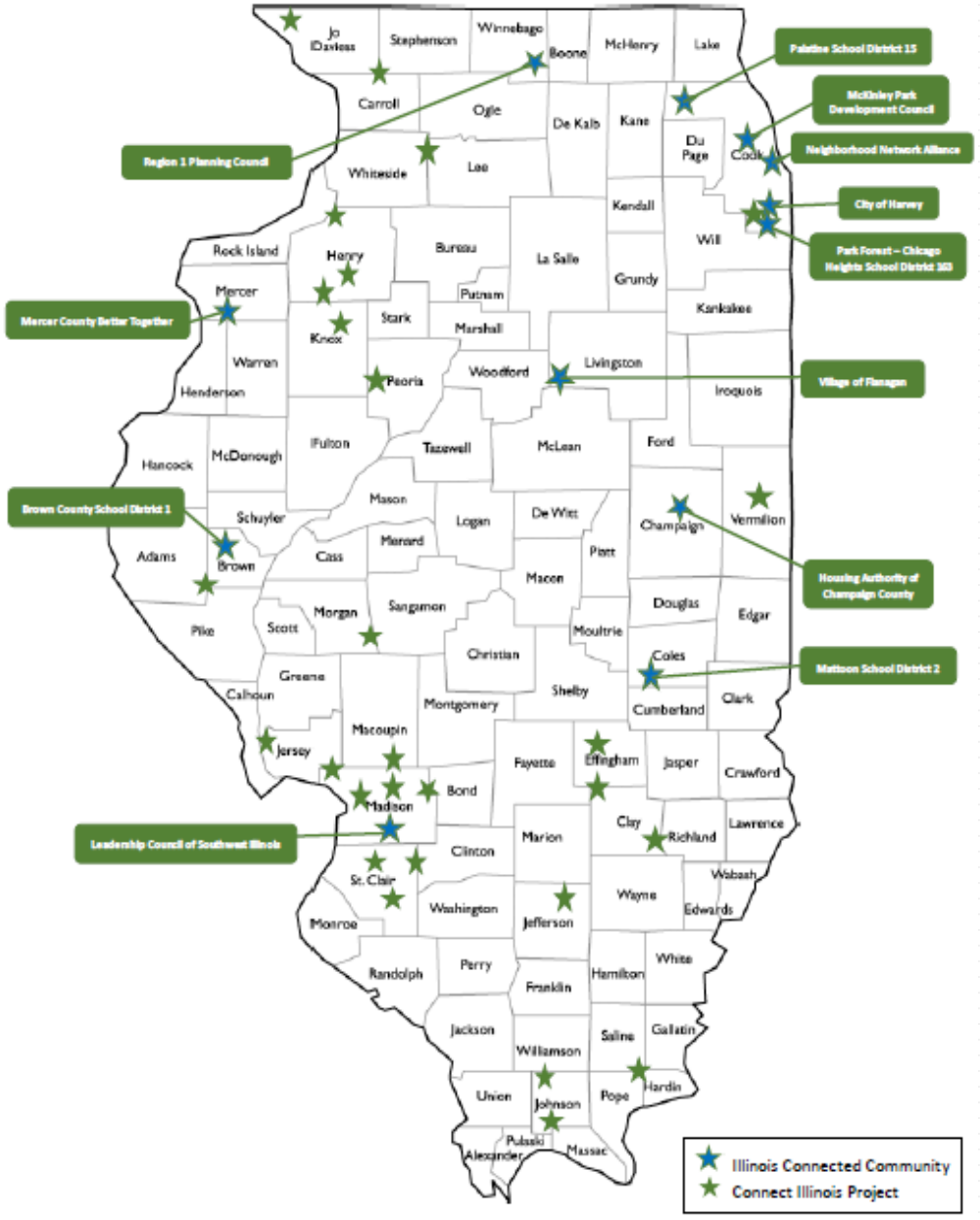
- Illinois Connected Communities
- Broadband READY (Regional Collaboration for Adoption + Digital Equity)
- Digital Navigator Program
- Connect Illinois Computer Equity Network

CONNECT ILLINOIS DIGITAL EQUITY

ILLINOIS CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

- Local Broadband Planning + Capacity Building
- Program Summary
  - Broadband Steering Committee
  - Digital Divide Elimination Plan | access, adoption + utilization
  - Collaborate with statewide computer refurbishing & redistribution network
  - 50 hrs of consultant/facilitator time; best practice curriculum
- Grant Amount
  - Up to $15,000 per community; $150,000 available statewide
- Application Deadline
  - March 8, 2021

ILLINOIS CONNECTED COMMUNITIES
2020 AWARDS



- Partnership among the Illinois Office of Broadband, the Benton Institute for Broadband & Society, and local philanthropy. Designed to engage a first-year cohort of communities through best practice curriculum and expert consultation.

- The initial cohort includes four school districts, two community-based organizations, two local governments, two county-level organizations, and two economic development groups:

  - Brown County School District 1
  - City of Harvey
  - Housing Authority of Champaign County
  - Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois
  - Mattoon School District 2
  - McKinley Park Development Council
  - Mercer County Better Together
  - Neighborhood Network Alliance
  - Palatine School District 15
  - Park Forest-Chicago Heights School District 163
  - Region 1 Planning Council
  - Village of Flanagan

- Each Illinois Connected Community will have completed a community-driven, broadband strategic plan that articulates the community's broadband vision and identifies an action plan for progress toward improved broadband access in the areas of community and economic development, education, civic engagement, healthcare, agriculture, and more.

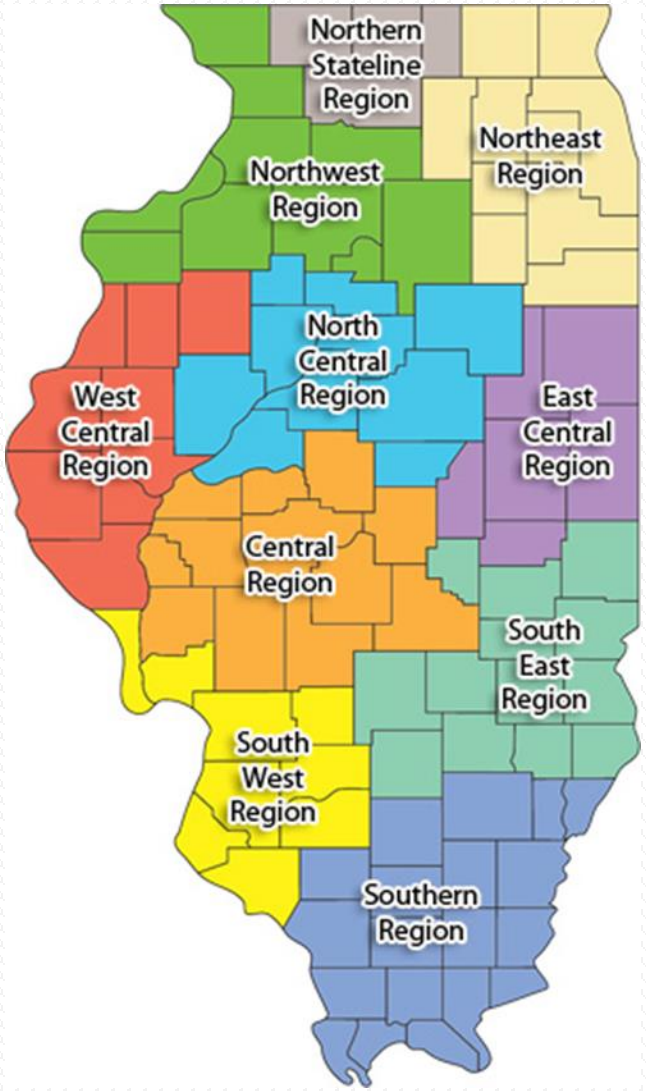
CONNECT ILLINOIS DIGITAL EQUITY
BROADBAND READY PROGRAM

- Regional Engagement for Adoption + Digital Equity (READY)
- Program Summary
  - Drive broadband collaboration for engagement, evaluation, planning, and progress at regional level
  - Align local and regional efforts toward shared goals in broadband access, adoption, and utilization
  - Promote immediate community technology expansion
  - Integrate Connect Illinois Computer Equity Network + Digital Navigator capacity
- Grant Amount
  - Up to $50,000 per region
- Project Timeline
  - Spring/Summer 2021

BROADBAND READY PROGRAM

APPROACH

- A two-phased approach
  - Two initial cohorts
  - Establish baselines
  - Annual updates
- Fundamentally, the program seeks to
  - Shorter-term broadband access expansion
  - Longer-term advances in broadband access, adoption + utilization
  - Leverage infrastructure investment to drive economic prosperity



BROADBAND READY PROGRAM

APPROACH

Regional Engagement for Adoption + Digital Equity (READY) Program:

- Balance shorter-term broadband access expansion with longer-term engagement
- Add context + contour to the current Office of Broadband access mapping
- Identify digital inequities + opportunities through regionwide collaboration with:
  - Access (IOB Mapping)
  - Adoption (ACS)
  - Utilization

In addition to evaluating current conditions + next steps in digital equity + inclusion, the program will seek scalable and/or replicable best practices in broadband utilization, ranging from economic development innovation to telehealth to remote learning.

CONNECT ILLINOIS DIGITAL EQUITY
DIGITAL NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

- Program Summary
  - Promote digital equity + inclusion through “Digital Navigator” capacity:
    - Identify + map digital inequities
    - Identity digital inclusion assets
    - Identify digital inclusion programming gaps
- Award Amount
  - Communities will receive technical assistance valued at $10,000
- Application Deadline
  - Recurring

BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL
WORKING GROUPS

Initial	Proposed
• Access	
• Economic Development	Digital Equity + Inclusion
• Education	Smart Cities
• Technology	Rural Innovation
• Telehealth	

HEARTLAND FORWARD

Connecting the Heartland

WHAT IT IS

Heartland Forward is launching *Connecting the Heartland* – a multi-pronged, multi-state advocacy campaign in America's Heartland to *boost internet availability, boost internet speeds, boost adoption rates and boost participation in online services* that are key to opportunity. Working with partners who share our vision, we will accelerate progress in the Heartland by strategically focusing our collective resources to support efforts to bridge gaps preventing states and municipalities from realizing their goals of universal connectivity.

HEARTLAND FORWARD

Connecting the Heartland

UNDERLYING GOAL

Make sure American families in the Heartland have the high-speed, affordable internet service necessary for full participation in life in the digital age.

SPEED IS CRITICAL. As internet service is expanded, it must meet today's essential remote needs: participating in school and completing homework; accessing healthcare services; searching for, training for, and doing a job online.

AFFORDABILITY IS CRITICAL. Half of people who do not use high-speed internet say it's because the service is too expensive.

UTILIZATION IS CRITICAL. A high-speed connection can be a catalyst for equity by providing a lifeline to education, healthcare, economic opportunity and civic engagement, but only if users know how to access and participate in online services.

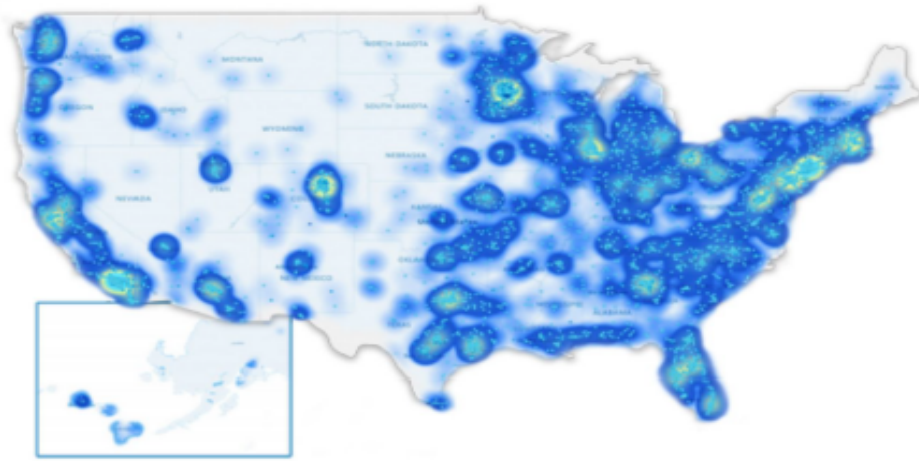
pcsforpeople

PCs for People is a nonprofit that provides affordable computers, mobile internet, and tech support / training to income-qualified individuals.

National organization with locations in Colorado, Minnesota, Ohio, Maryland, and Kansas City... and now Illinois!

Nonprofit Mission Impact

Nearly 60% of our recipients have never owned a computer before and over 80% do not currently have one at home.



Social Enterprise model, nominal fee for technology ($30-$150)

Computer + Internet Access + Digital Literacy and Support

Workforce Development

Illinois Response

- Connect Illinois Computer Equity Network
- Metro East launch in October 2020 – support from Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund to serve southern 41 counties
- Cook County launch in January 2021 to serve northern counties
- Additional statewide online order & shipping capacity

Metro East Hub

- Warehouse facility and retail store in Belleville
- Over 30 distribution events to-date
- Retail store grand opening April 9, 2021
- Thousands of devices distributed in Southern Illinois to-date

Cook County Hub

- Warehouse facility in Oak Forest
- Hiring now!
- Looking for combined warehouse + community space for long-term use
- Distribution partnerships beginning May 2021

Technology Recycling Services

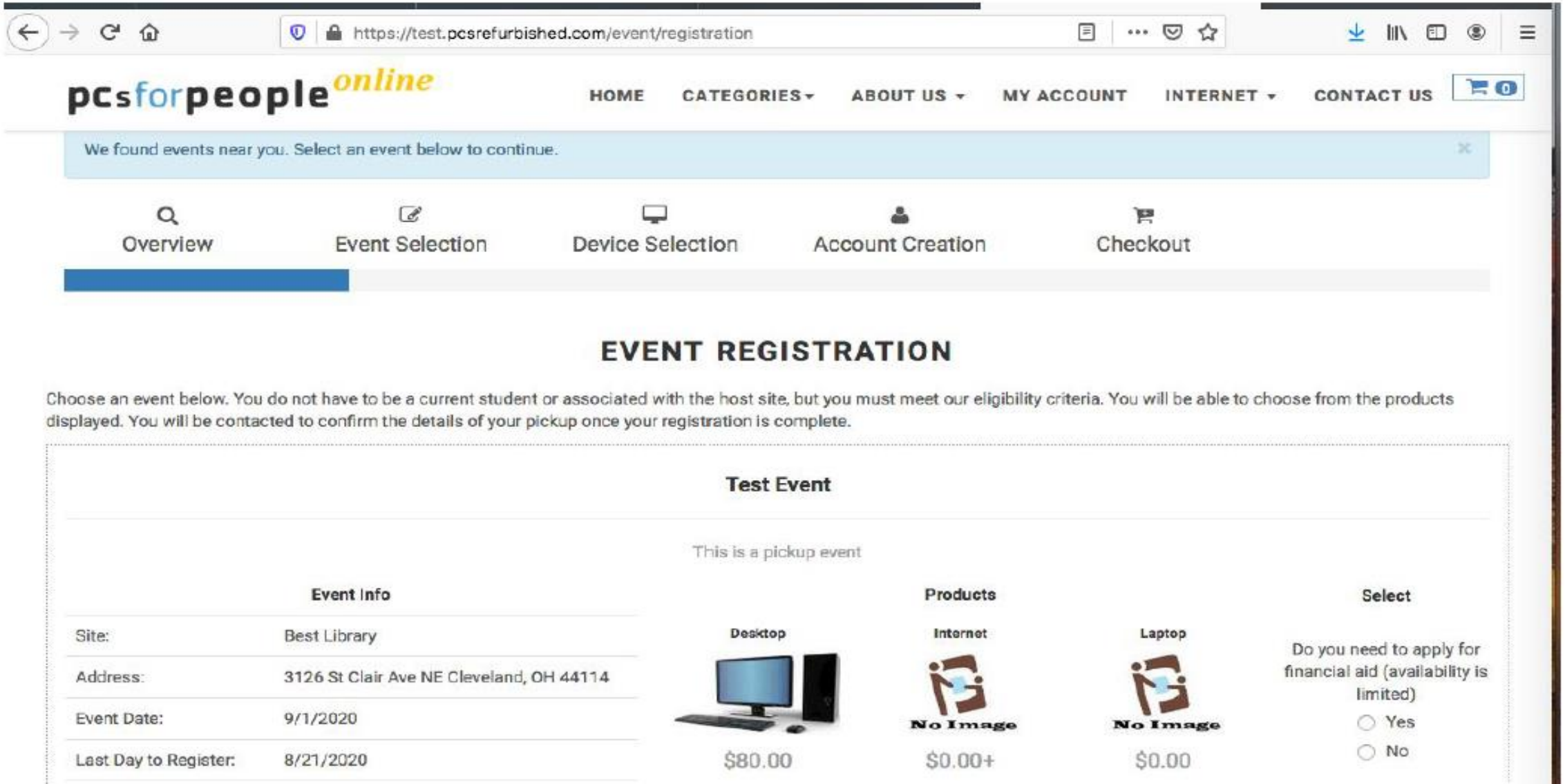
- We are also a secure IT asset disposition company, providing secure, sustainable, e-waste reuse and recycling
- Recycling partnerships with businesses, government agencies, nonprofit agencies, and schools.
- Providing NAID AAA certified data sanitization
- Zero landfill policy
- Free pick up and disposition of most items (computers, networking equipment, peripherals, etc.)
- Community Impact Report

https://www.pcsforpeople.org/e-waste-recycling-for-businesses/

Technology Distribution

- Community access at digital inclusion hubs: Metro East now open, Cook County in later 2021
- Online shipping statewide
- Pop-up events – “curbside express” + “back to normal”
- Distribution partnerships: libraries, schools, community organizations, local government, affordable housing

Remote Sign-up, Local Pickup



Contact Info

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Andrea Lindsay, New Markets Director
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Paul Tuttle, Account Executive - New Markets
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Email: ptuttle@pcsforpeople.com

Connect Illinois - Connect Illinois | The Illinois Broadband Map | The Illinois Broadband Map

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Not syncing

The Illinois Broadband Map

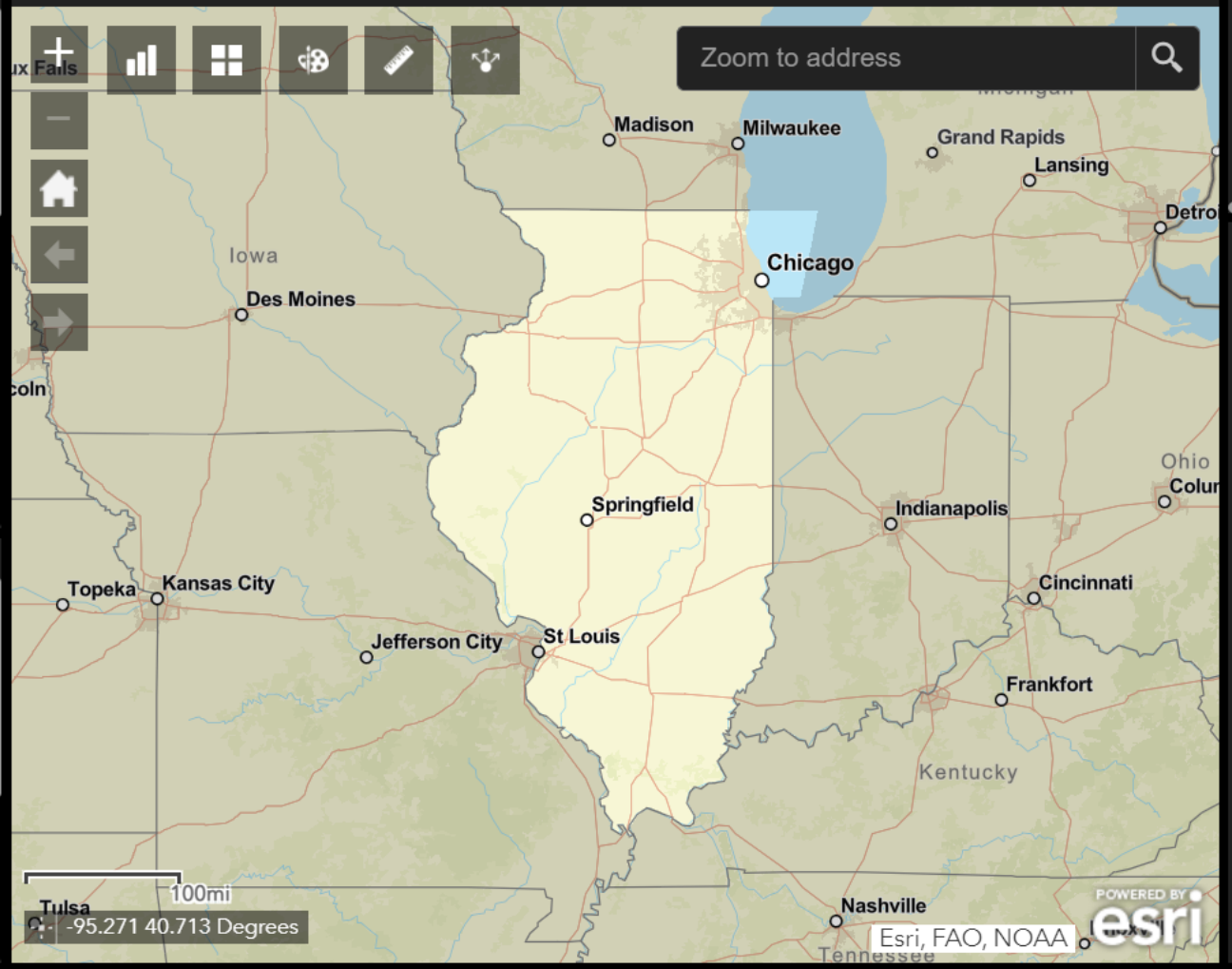
Published April 19, 2021. Please provide feedback here.

ACCESS STATISTICS

- 1 Gbps Download/1 Gbps Upload (Wireline)
- 1 Gbps Download/1 Gbps Upload (All Fixed)
- 100 Mbps Download/20 Mbps Upload (Wireline)
- 100 Mbps Download/20 Mbps Upload (All Fixed)
- 25 Mbps Download/3 Mbps Upload (Wireline)
- 25 Mbps Download/3 Mbps Upload (All Fixed)

GENERAL FEDERAL

- Schools K-12
- Libraries
- Healthcare Facilities
- Public Safety Facilities



Info-General Info-Federal Funding

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
OFFICE OF BROADBAND
JB Pritzker, Governor

Legend Query/Locate

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Connect Illinois - Connect Illinois | The Illinois Broadband Map | The Illinois Broadband Map

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GENERAL FEDERAL

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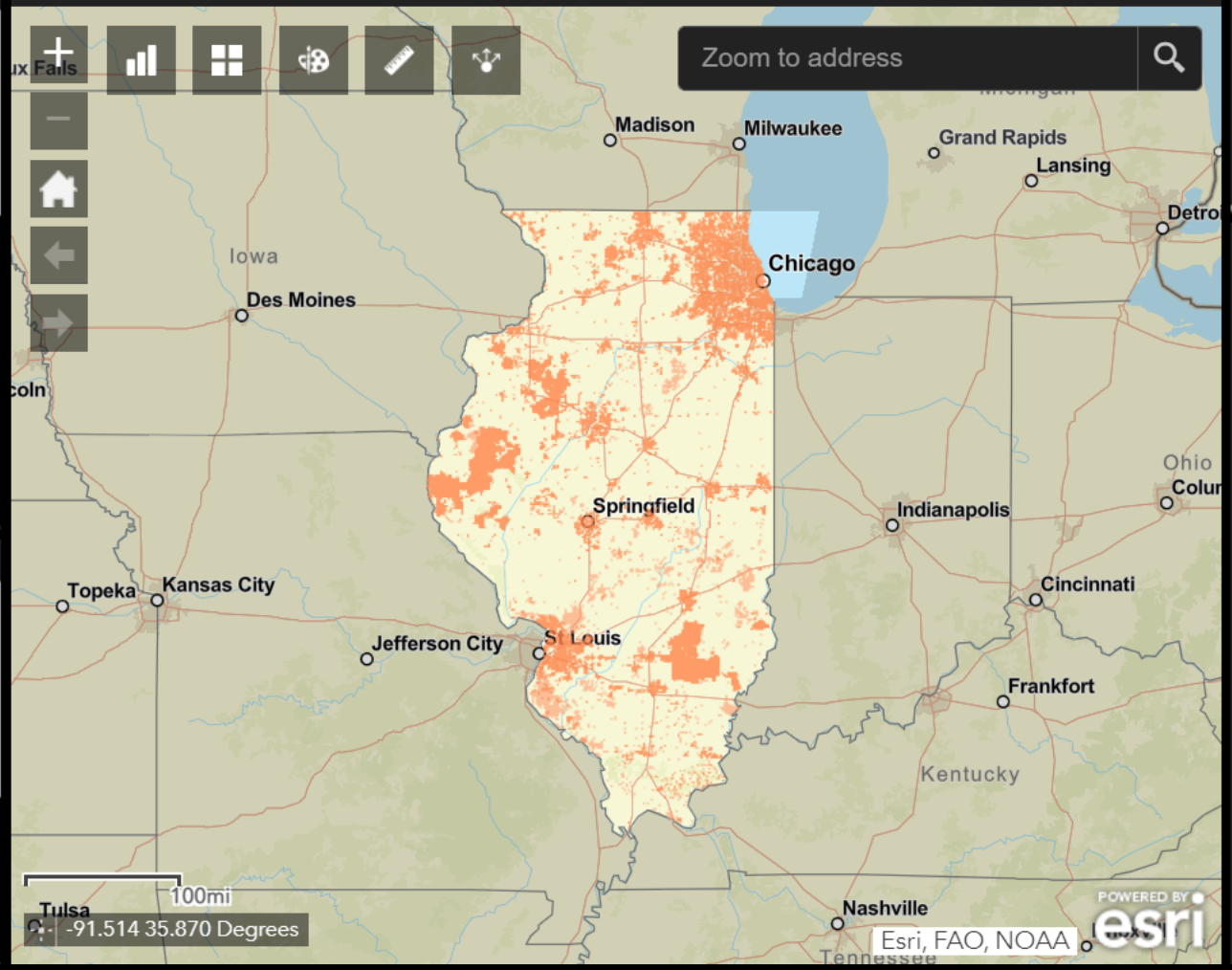

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Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
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Legend Query/Locate

100 Mbps Download/20 Mbps Upload (Wireline)

25 Mbps Download/3 Mbps Upload (Wireline)

Broadband (25M/3M-wireline)

Connect Illinois - Connect Illinois | The Illinois Broadband Map | The Illinois Broadband Map | The Illinois Broadband Map

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The Illinois Broadband Map

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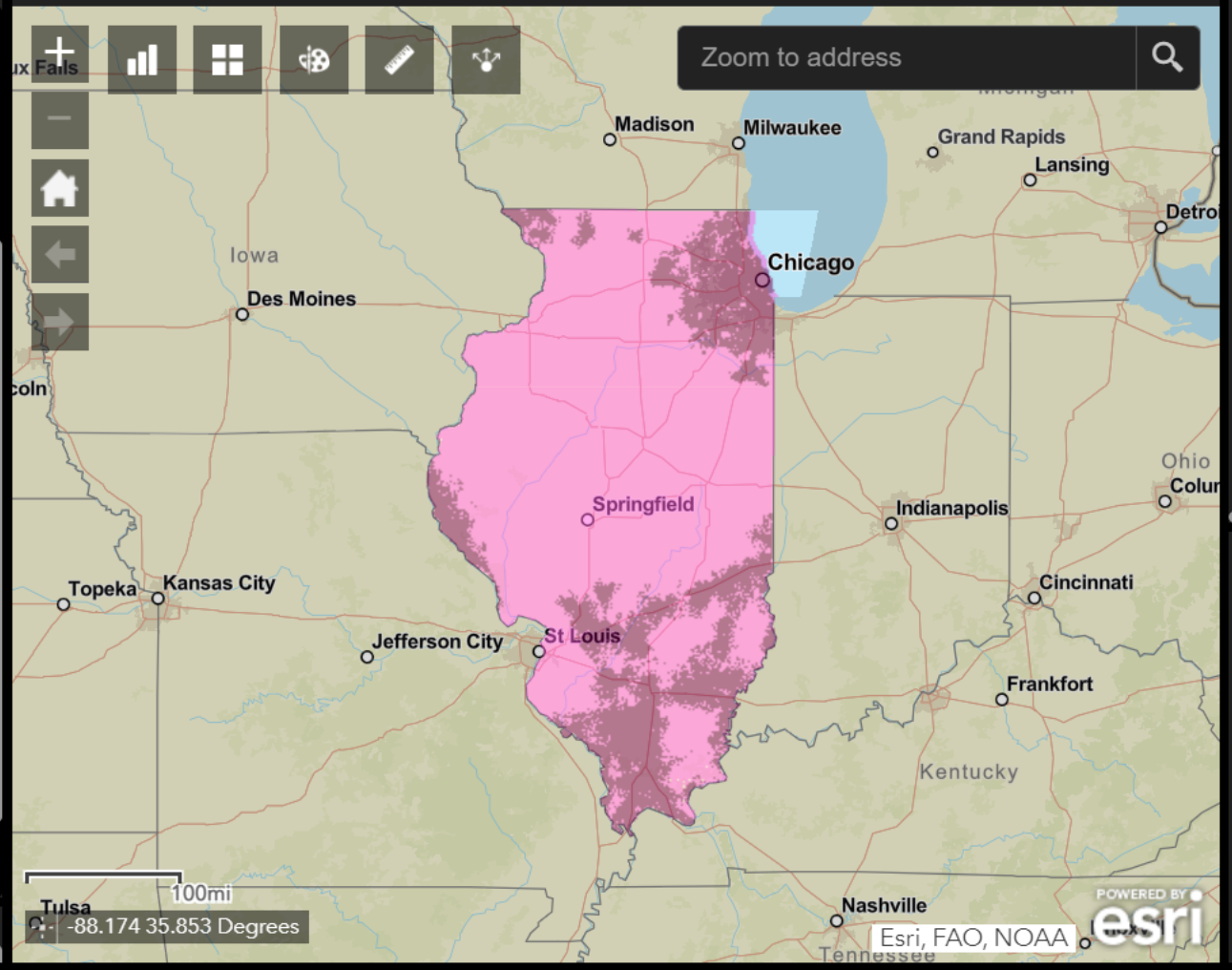
ACCESS STATISTICS

- 25 Mbps Download/3 Mbps Upload (Wireline)
- 25 Mbps Download/3 Mbps Upload (All Fixed)
- Fiber Broadband
- Cable Broadband
- DSL Broadband
- Fixed Wireless Broadband
- Mobile 5G & LTE Broadband
  - Mobile Wireless
- Max Adv. Download Speed (≥ 25M/3M)
- Max Adv. Upload Speed (≥ 25M/3M)
- Density of Providers (≥ 100M/20M)
- Density of Providers (≥ 25M/3M)

GENERAL FEDERAL



Info-General Info-Federal Funding

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
OFFICE OF BROADBAND
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Adoption

Don't Have Broadband? Provide Feedback
Access from AT&T
Internet Assist (Spectrum)
Internet Essentials (Comcast)
FCC Lifeline Program

Application data published on April 19, 2021 (excludes mobile and satellite services unless noted)

Legend Query/Locate

Mobile 5G & LTE Broadband

Mobile Wireless
- 5G Designated
- LTE Designated

The Illinois Broadband Map

Published April 19, 2021. Please provide feedback here.

ACCESS STATISTICS

- (Wireline)
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- DSL Broadband
- Fixed Wireless Broadband
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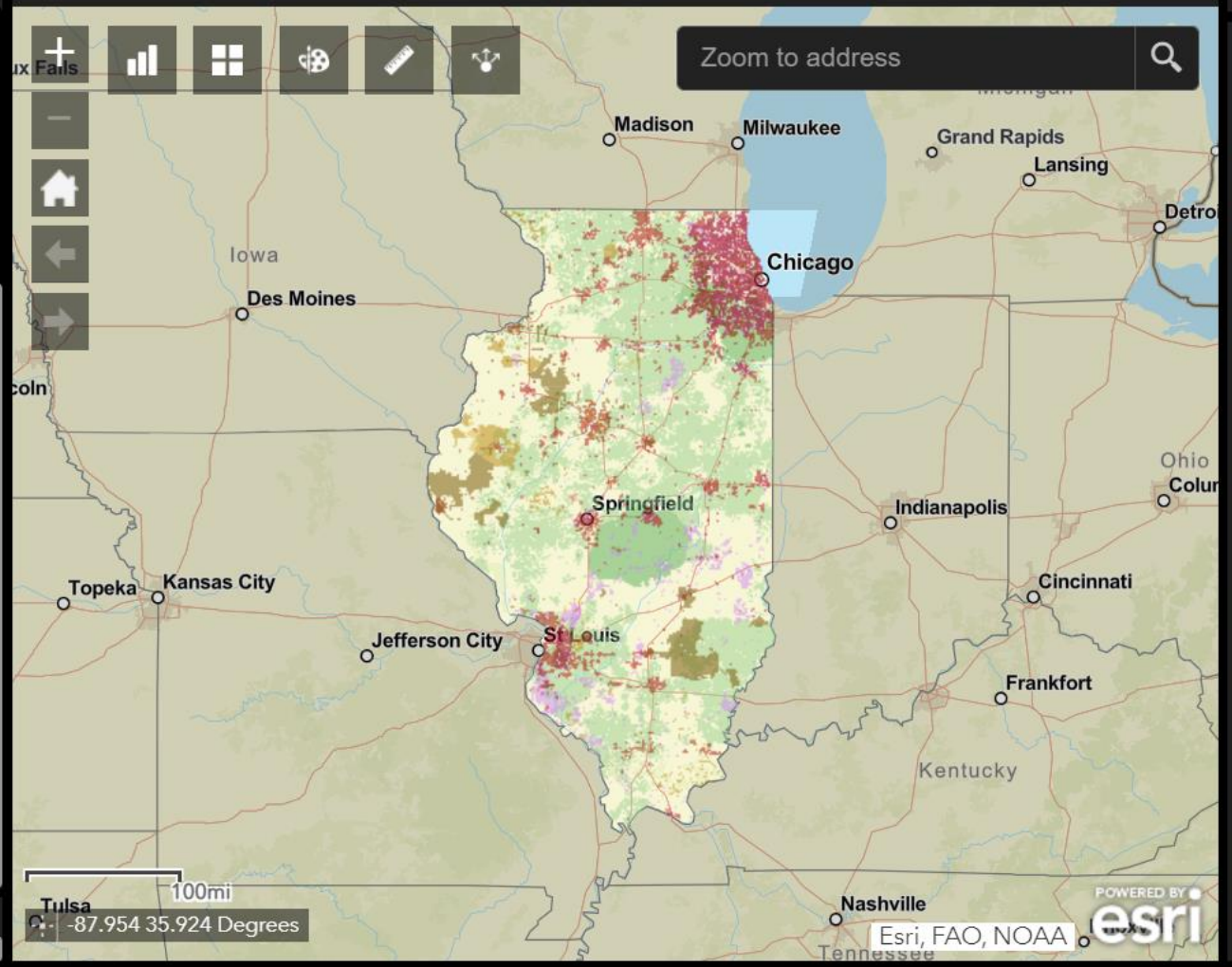
- Max Adv. Upload Speed (≥ 25M/3M)
- Density of Providers (≥ 100M/20M)
- Density of Providers (≥ 25M/3M)
- Unserved Areas at 25M/3M (Census 2010)

GENERAL FEDERAL



Info-General Info-Federal Funding

Legend Query/Locate

Fiber Broadband

Speed
- At Least 1 Gbps x 1 Gbps
- At Least 100 Mbps x 20 Mbps
- At Least 25 Mbps x 3 Mbps

Cable Broadband

Speed
- At Least 100 Mbps x 20 Mbps
- At Least 25 Mbps x 3 Mbps

DSL Broadband

Speed
- At Least 1 Gbps x 1 Gbps
- At Least 100 Mbps x 20 Mbps
- At Least 25 Mbps x 3 Mbps

Fixed Wireless Broadband

Speed
- At Least 1 Gbps x 1 Gbps
- At Least 100 Mbps x 20 Mbps

Connect Illinois - Connect I | The Illinois Broadband Map | The Illinois Broadband Map | The Illinois Broadband Map | The Illinois Broadband Map

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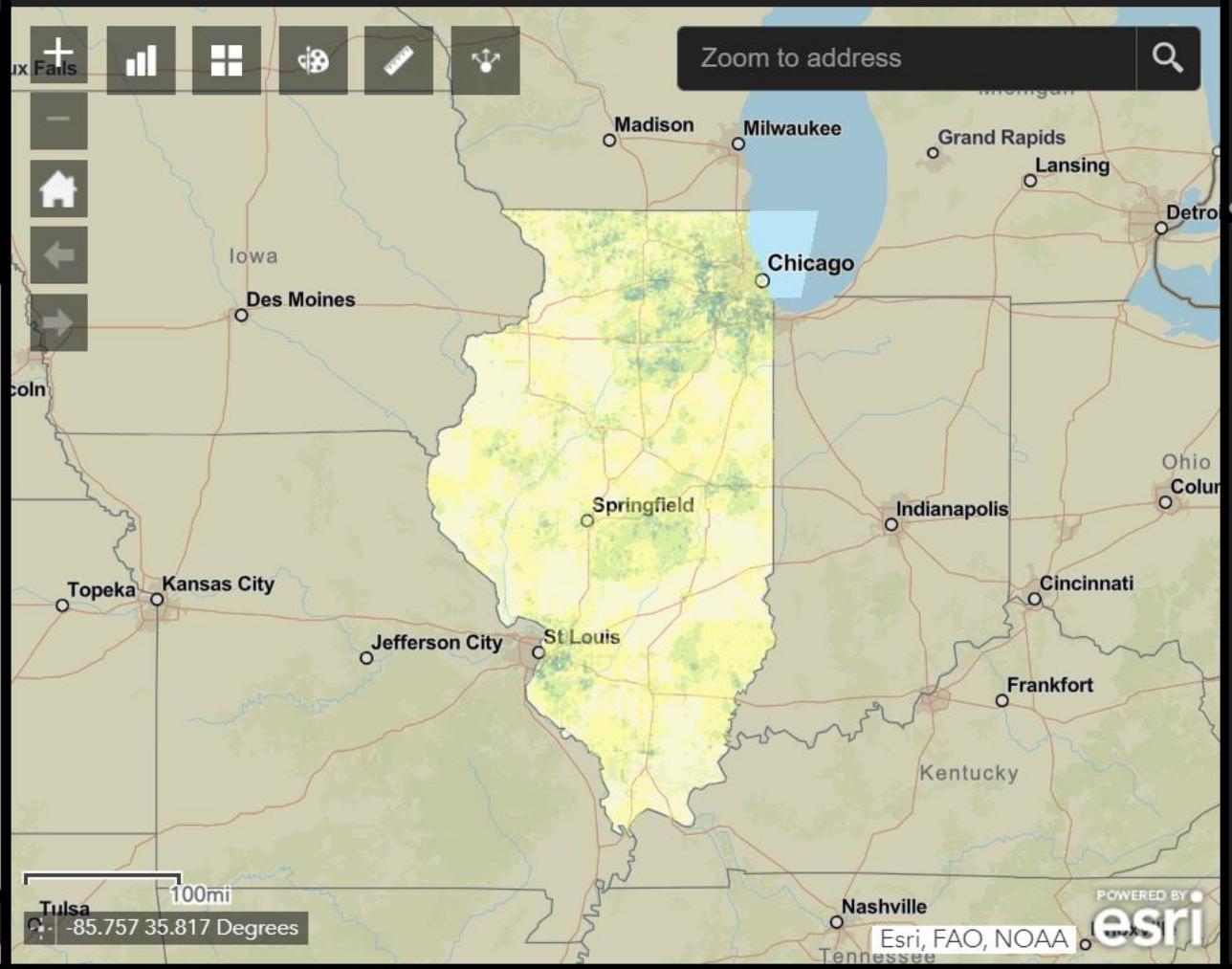

Info-General Info-Federal Funding

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Legend Query/Locate

Density of Providers (≥ 25M/3M)

Count of Providers

- 5 or More Providers
- 4 Providers
- 3 Providers
- 2 Providers
- 1 Provider

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ACCESS STATISTICS

- [x] Broadband Availability by Household (Click Text to Expand)
- [ ] County - 1 Gbps Down/1 Gbps Up (All Fixed)
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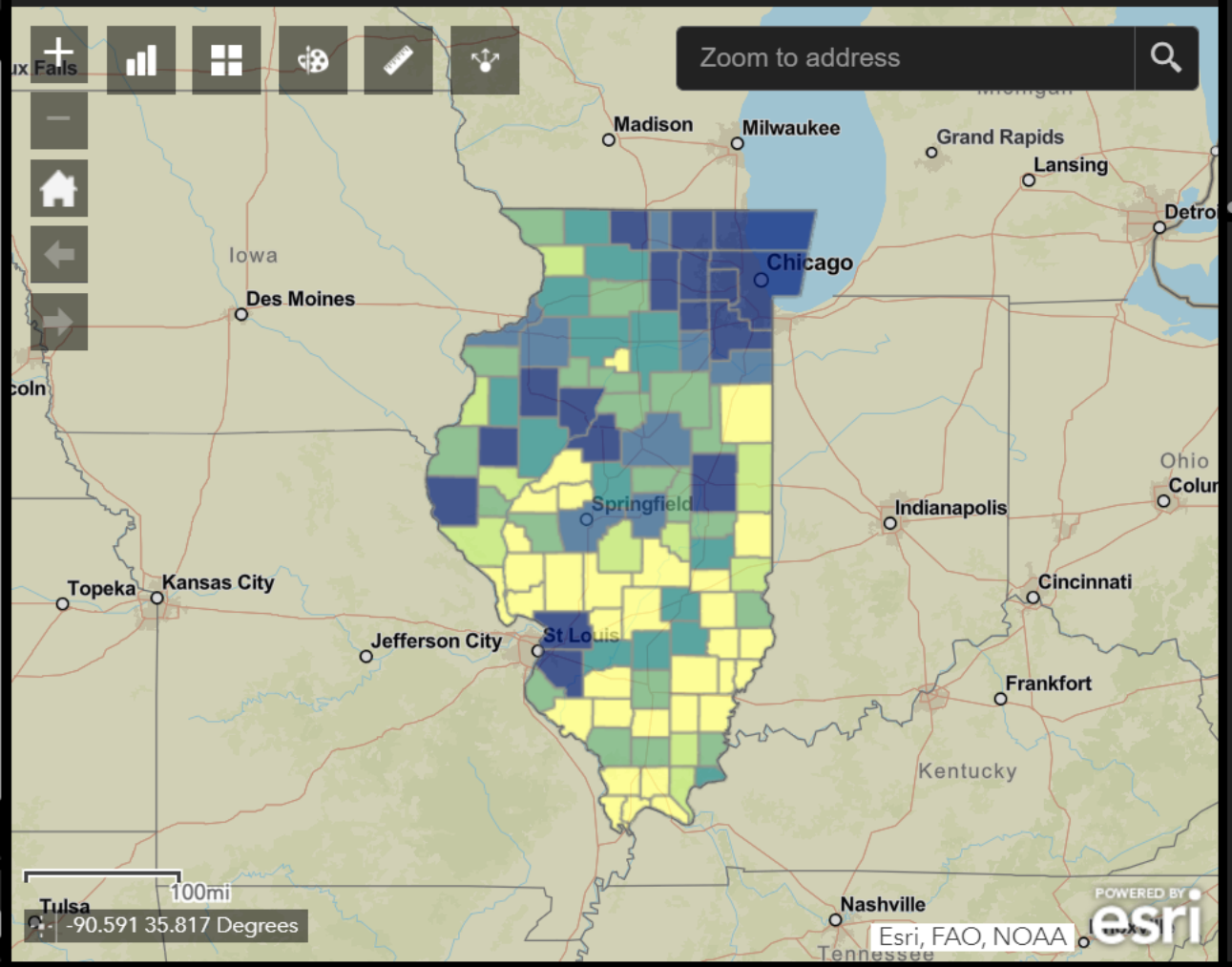
GENERAL FEDERAL



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Legend Query/Locate

Broadband Availability by Household (Click Text to Expand)

County - 100 Mbps Down/20 Mbps Up (Wireline)

- 90.01 - 100%
- 80.01 - 90%
- 70.01 - 80%
- 60.01 - 70%
- 50-60%
- <50%

The Illinois Broadband Map

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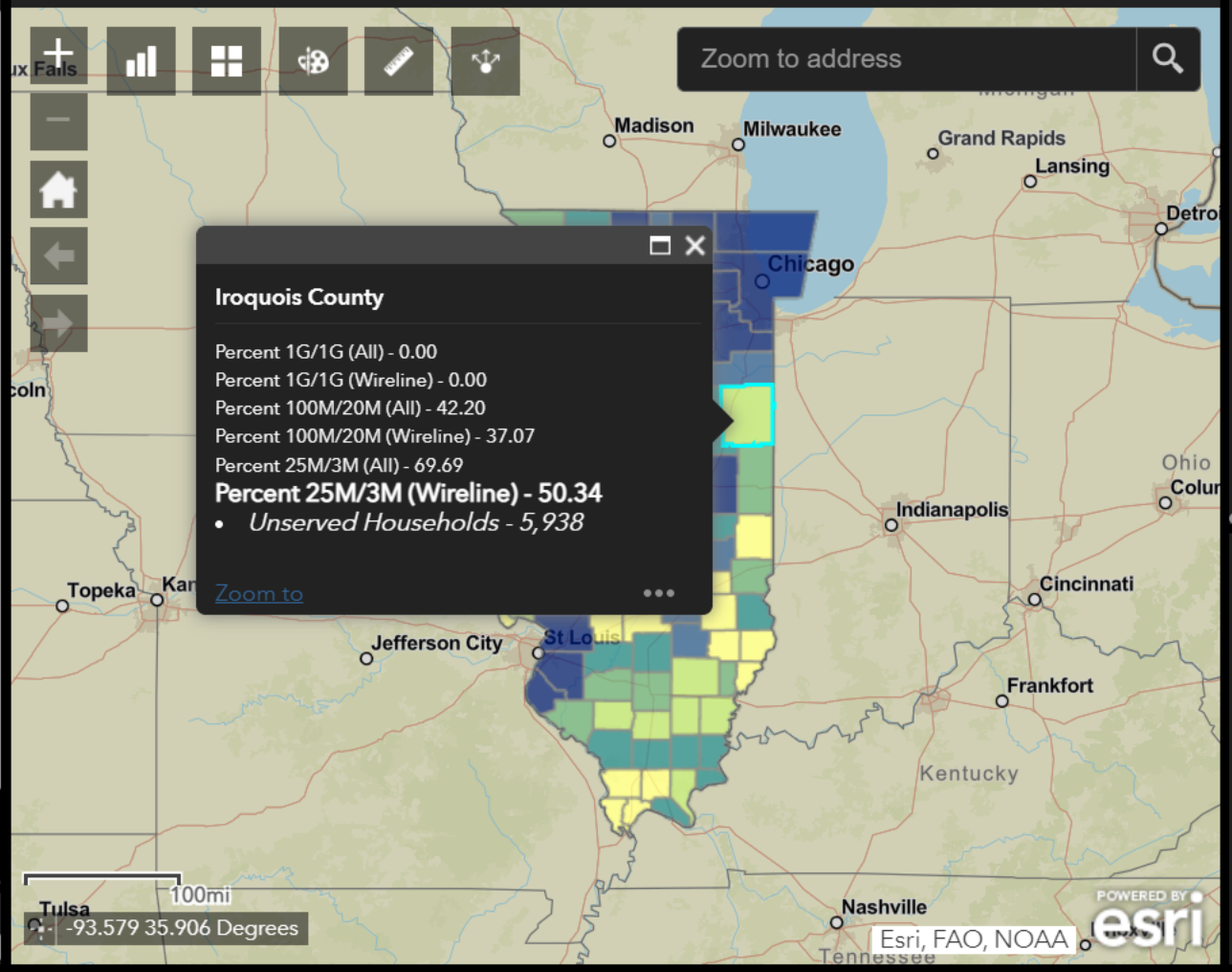
  - School District - 25 Mbps Down/3 Mbps Up

GENERAL FEDERAL



Info-General Info-Federal Funding

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Adoption

Don't Have Broadband? Provide Feedback
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Internet Assist (Spectrum)
Internet Essentials (Comcast)
FCC Lifeline Program

Application data published on April 19, 2021 (excludes mobile and satellite services unless noted)

Legend Query/Locate

Broadband Availability by Household (Click Text to Expand)

County - 25 Mbps Down/3 Mbps Up (Wireline)

- 90.01 - 100%
- 80.01 - 90%
- 70.01 - 80%
- 60.01 - 70%
- 50-60%

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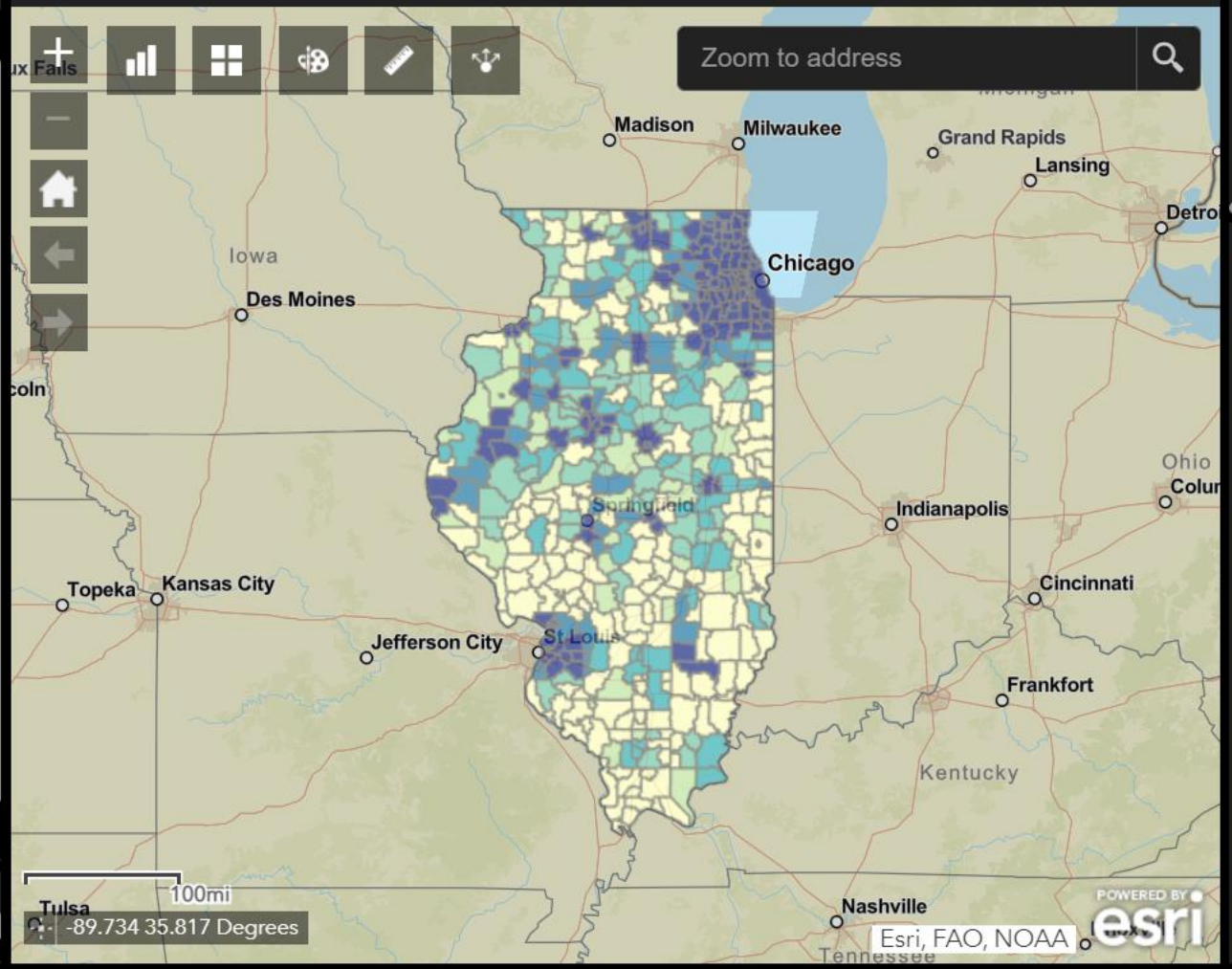
- [ ] School District - 25 Mbps Down/3 Mbps Up (Wireline)

GENERAL FEDERAL



Info-General Info-Federal Funding

Illinois Department of Commerc & Economic Opportunity
OFFICE OF BROADBAND
JB Pritzker, Governor

Legend Query/Locate

Broadband Availability by Household (Click Text to Expand)

School District - 100 Mbps Down/20 Mbps Up (Wireline)

- 90.01 - 100%
- 80.01 - 90%
- 70.01 - 80%
- 60.01 - 70%
- 50 - 60%
- <50%

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Not syncing

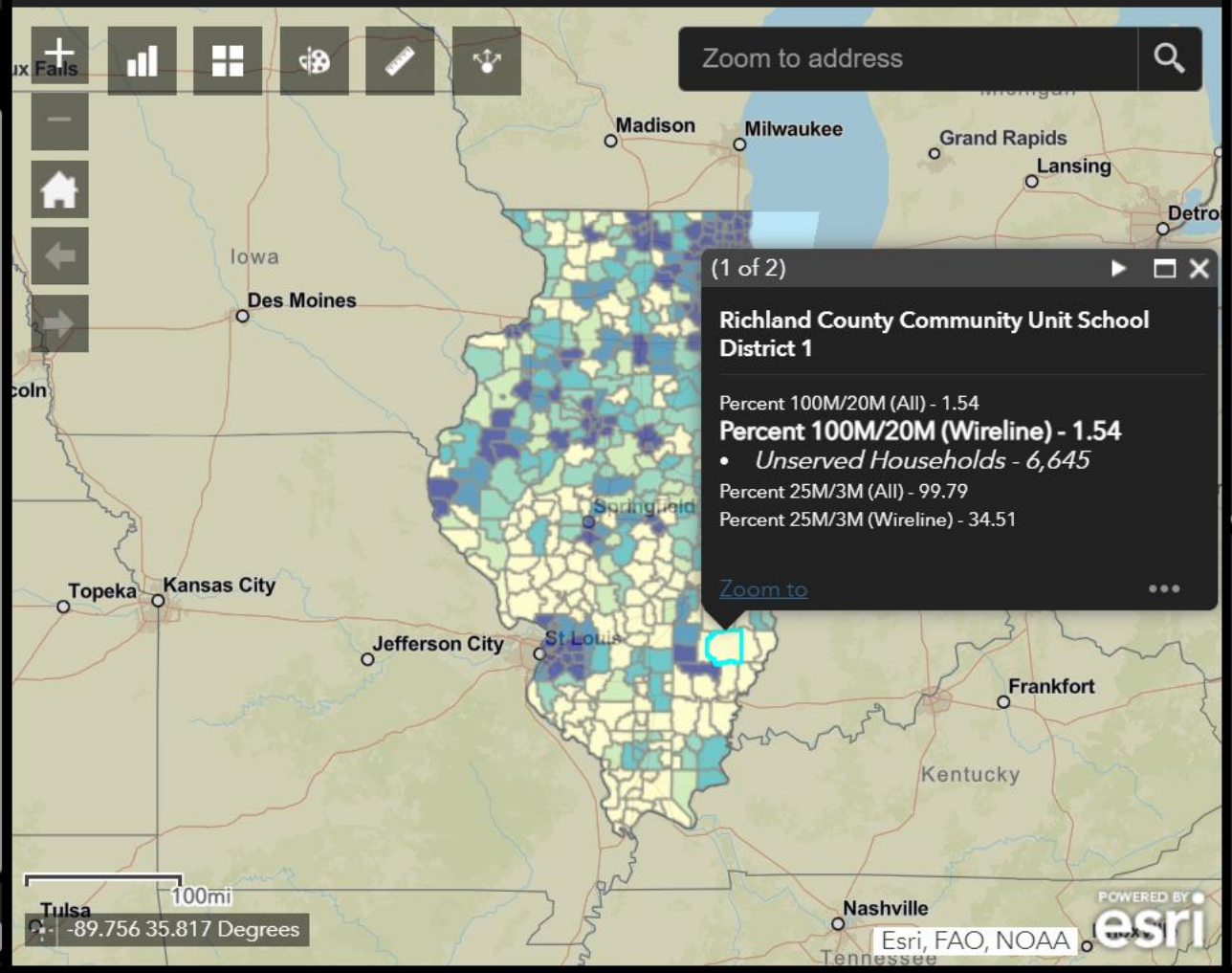
The Illinois Broadband Map

Published April 19, 2021. Please provide feedback here.

ACCESS STATISTICS

- County - 1 Gbps Down/1 Gbps Up (All Fixed)
- County - 1 Gbps Down/1 Gbps Up (Wireline)
- County - 100 Mbps Down/20 Mbps Up (All Fixed)
- County - 100 Mbps Down/20 Mbps Up (Wireline)
- County - 25 Mbps Down/3 Mbps Up (All Fixed)
- County - 25 Mbps Down/3 Mbps Up (Wireline)
- School District - 100 Mbps Down/20 Mbps Up (All Fixed)
- [x] School District - 100 Mbps Down/20 Mbps Up (Wireline)
- School District - 25 Mbps Down/3 Mbps Up (All Fixed)
- School District - 25 Mbps Down/3 Mbps Up (Wireline)
- [x] Broadband Adoption (Subscriptions) - ACS-2019

GENERAL FEDERAL



Info-General Info-Federal Funding

Illinois Department of Commerc & Economic Opportunity
OFFICE OF BROADBAND
JB Pritzker, Governor

Adoption

Don't Have Broadband? Provide Feedback
Access from AT&T
Internet Assist (Spectrum)
Internet Essentials (Comcast)
FCC Lifeline Program

Application data published on April 19, 2021 (excludes mobile and satellite services unless noted)

Legend Query/Locate

Broadband Availability by Household (Click Text to Expand)

School District - 100 Mbps Down/20 Mbps Up (Wireline)

- 90.01 - 100%
- 80.01 - 90%
- 70.01 - 80%
- 60.01 - 70%
- 50 - 60%

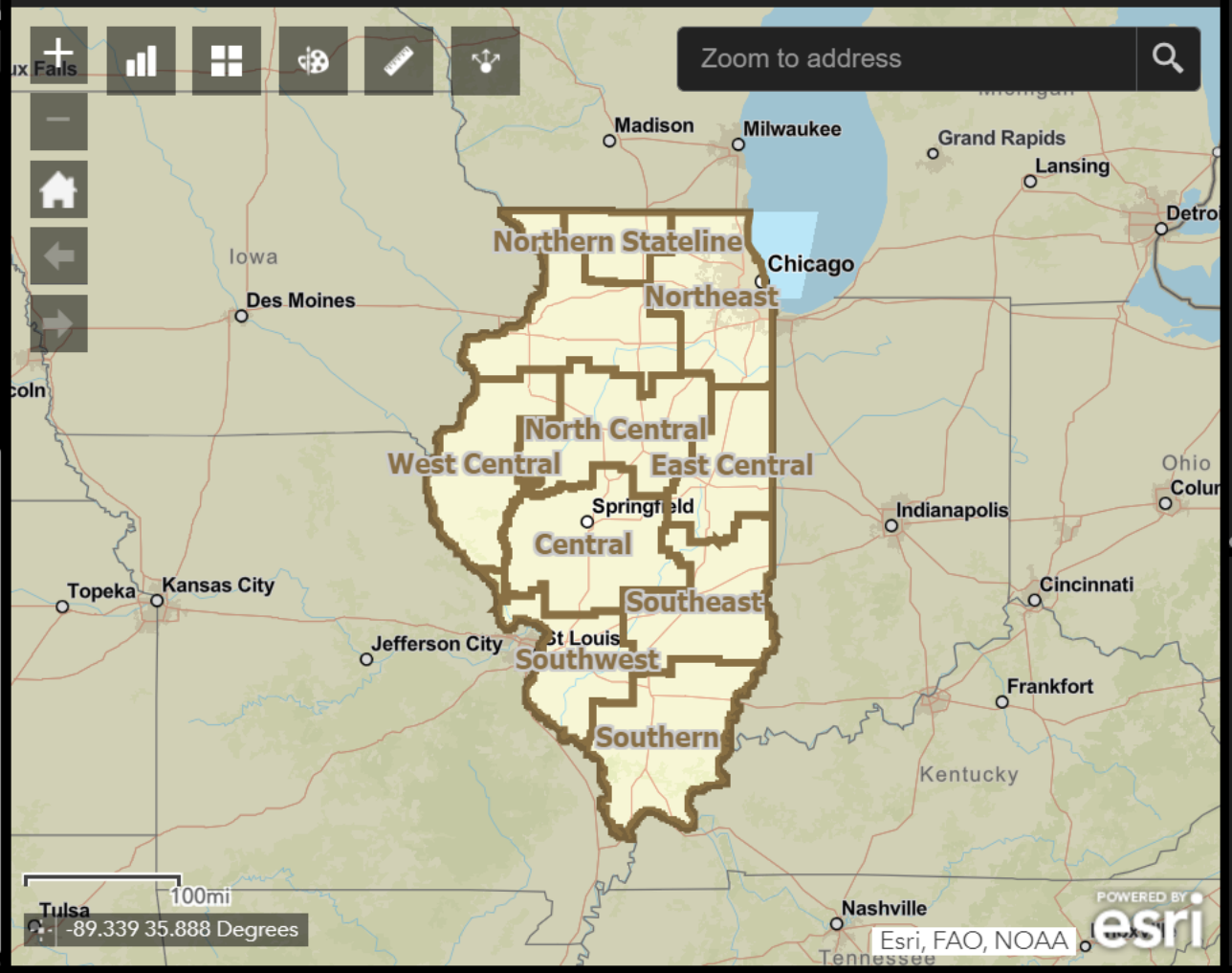
The Illinois Broadband Map

Published April 19, 2021. Please provide feedback here.

ACCESS STATISTICS

GENERAL FEDERAL

- Boundary-based Layers (Click Text to Expand)
  - Census Blocks
  - Congressional Districts
  - County Boundaries
  - Electric Utility Boundaries
  - Federal Lands
  - Opportunity Zones (Tracts)
  - School Districts (E-rate)
  - State House Districts
  - State Senate Districts
  - Village Boundaries
  - Township/Precinct Boundaries



Info-General Info-Federal Funding

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OFFICE OF BROADBAND
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Legend Query/Locate

Economic Development Regions

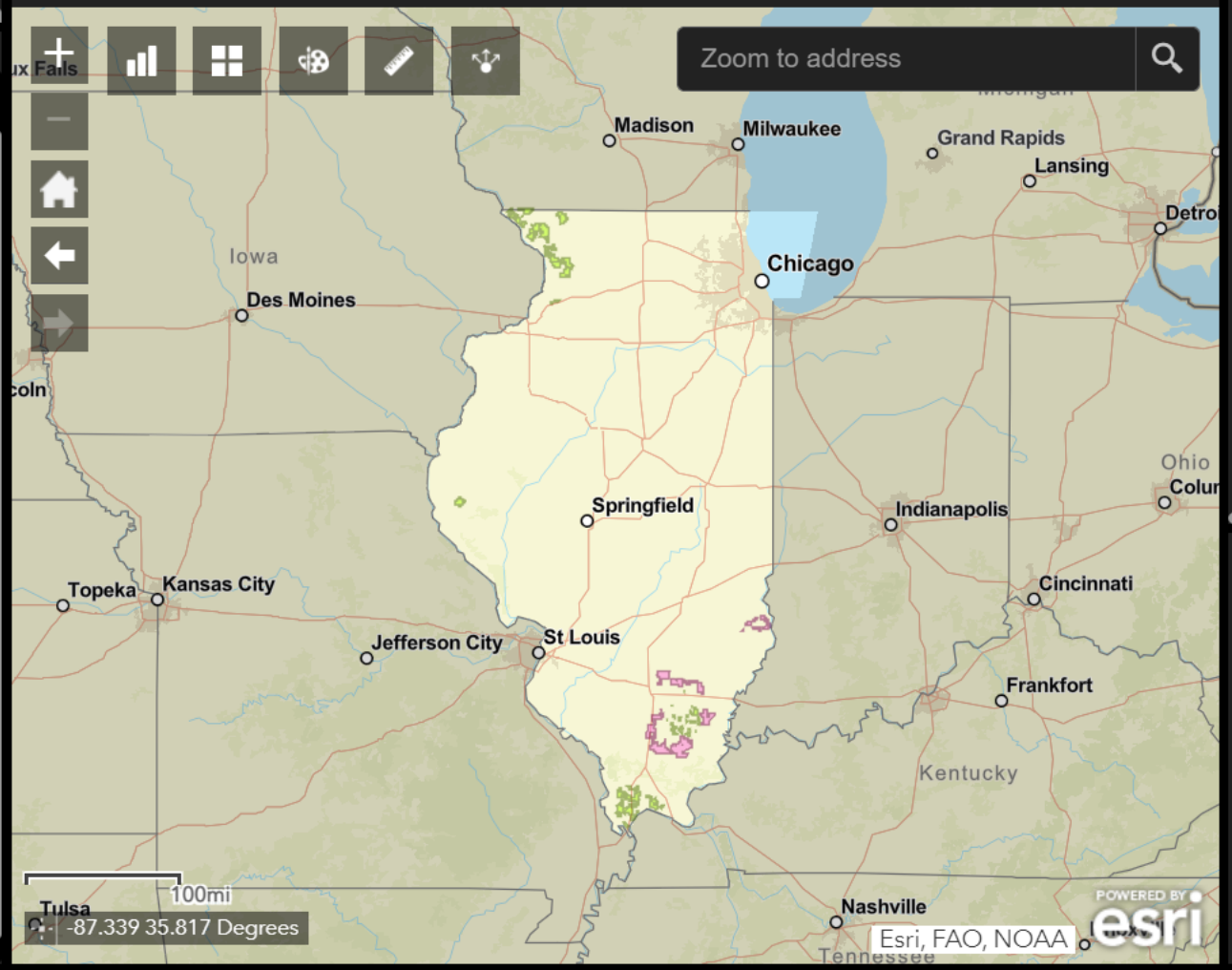
The Illinois Broadband Map

Published April 19, 2021. Please provide feedback here.

ACCESS STATISTICS

GENERAL FEDERAL

- [x] USDA ReConnect - Funded
- [x] FCC Commitments and Deployments
  - [ ] Federal Buildout Commitments/Eligible Areas
    - [ ] Alternative-Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM) Eligible Areas
    - [ ] Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II Auction Winning Bid Areas
    - [ ] Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II Commitment Areas
    - [ ] Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Phase 1 Winning Bid Areas
  - [ ] Federal Subsidy Program Deployment (Zoom-in to see actual locations & labels)
    - [ ] Alternative-Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM I & II)
    - [ ] Connect America Fund-Broadband Loop Support (CAF-BLS)
    - [ ] Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II
    - [ ] Rural Broadband Experiments (RBE)



Info-General Info-Federal Funding

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
OFFICE OF BROADBAND
JB Pritzker, Governor

Adoption

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Legend Query/Locate

USDA ReConnect - Funded

- 100% Grant
- 50/50% Loan/Grant

FEDERAL BROADBAND EFFORT
OVERVIEW

Consolidated Appropriations Act

- $2.3T overall investment
- $7 billion to improve connectivity in the U.S.
- Extension of CARES Act spending deadline to December 31, 2021

FEDERAL BROADBAND EFFORT
REMOTE LEARNING

Education Stabilization Fund (U.S. Department of Education) - $81.8B

- Majority of funds distributed directly to K-12 and Higher Education Institutions via formula-grants.
  - $54.3 billion for Elementary and Secondary Schools
  - $21.1 billion for Higher Education
- New appropriation of $4 billion for Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund, per CARES Act.
- Allowable uses include addressing student broadband access and connectivity gaps.
- $2.75 billion reserved for Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools program.

FEDERAL BROADBAND EFFORT
CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program (NTIA) - $285M

- Establishes an Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives to expand access to broadband internet access and digital opportunities in HBCU communities & Hispanic-serving institutions.
- Promote initiatives for broadband access and digital opportunities for anchor communities and develop recommendations to rapidly expand deployment of broadband to unserved minority-serving institutions and anchor communities.
- Funding will support HBCUs and other minority-serving education institutions, including partnerships with minority-owned businesses, to expand broadband capacity and use at the school and in the surrounding community, including by assisting students to afford broadband service.

FEDERAL BROADBAND EFFORT
ADOPTION

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (FCC) - $3.2B

- Temporary, emergency broadband benefit to aid low-income Americans access broadband.
- Up to $50 monthly subsidy for broadband subscription.
- Up to $100 one-time subsidy for a low-cost device such as a computer, laptop, or tablet.
- Program expires six months after COVID-19 pandemic passes or funding expires.
- Participation is voluntary for broadband providers.
- Similar but expanded eligibility requirements to Lifeline; Pell grant recipient, free and reduced lunch, layoff/furlough, Lifeline National Verifier/NLAD, or qualifies for an existing privately-funded low-income program.

Emergency Broadband Benefit

Español | 繁體中文 | Tagalog | Tiếng Việt | 한국어

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is an FCC program to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. This new benefit will connect eligible households to jobs, critical healthcare services, virtual classrooms, and so much more.

About the Emergency Broadband Benefit

The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a discount of up to $50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to $75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to $100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than $10 and less than $50 toward the purchase price.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

Who Is Eligible for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program?

A household is eligible if a member of the household meets *one* of the criteria below:

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, or Lifeline;
- Approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020 and the household had a total income in 2020 at or below $99,000 for single filers and $198,000 for joint filers; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

When Can I Sign Up for the Benefit?

As of May 12, 2021, eligible households will be able to enroll in the program to receive a monthly discount off the cost of broadband service from an approved provider. Eligible households can enroll through an approved provider or by visiting https://getemergencybroadband.org.

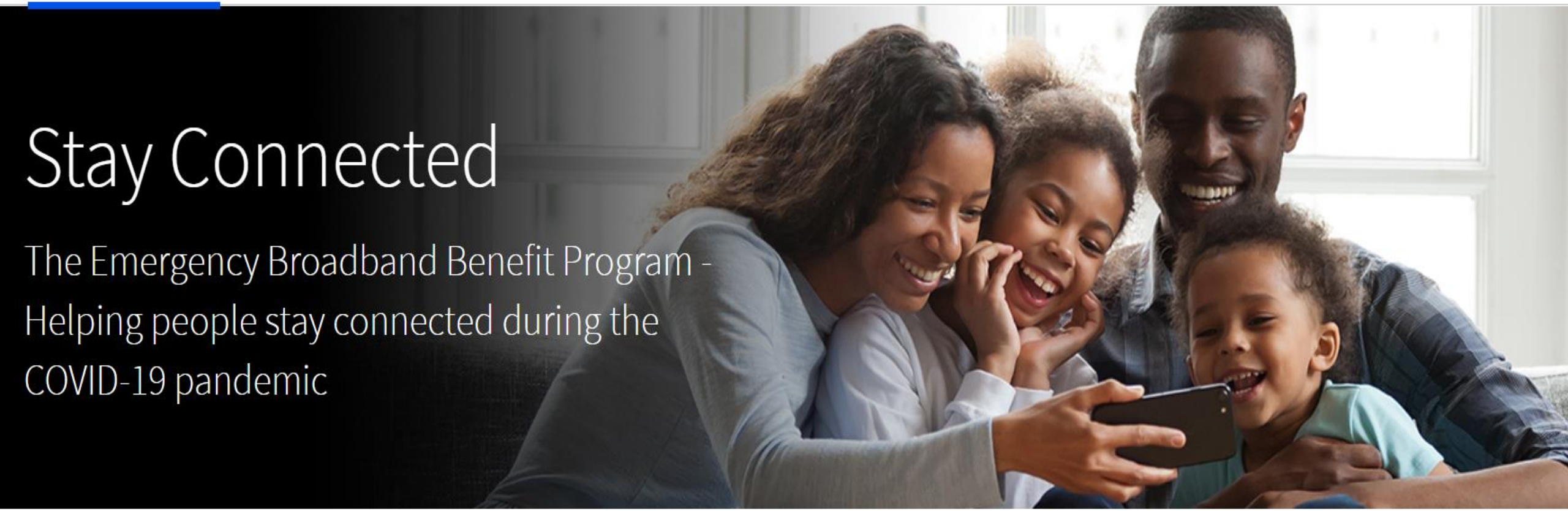
Check out the Broadband Benefit Consumer FAQ for more information about the benefit and please continue to check this page for program updates.

Universal Service Administrative Co.

Stay Connected | Do I Qualify? | How to Apply | Companies Near Me | Help

Stay Connected

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program - Helping people stay connected during the COVID-19 pandemic



FEDERAL BROADBAND EFFORT
2021 + BEYOND

American Rescue Plan

- $1.9T
- $10B in state block grants for broadband (Capital Projects Fund)
- $170B to K-12 schools, colleges & universities
  - reopen & operate safely
  - facilitate remote learning
- $7.2 for Emergency Connectivity Fund + E-Rate Expansion

Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act

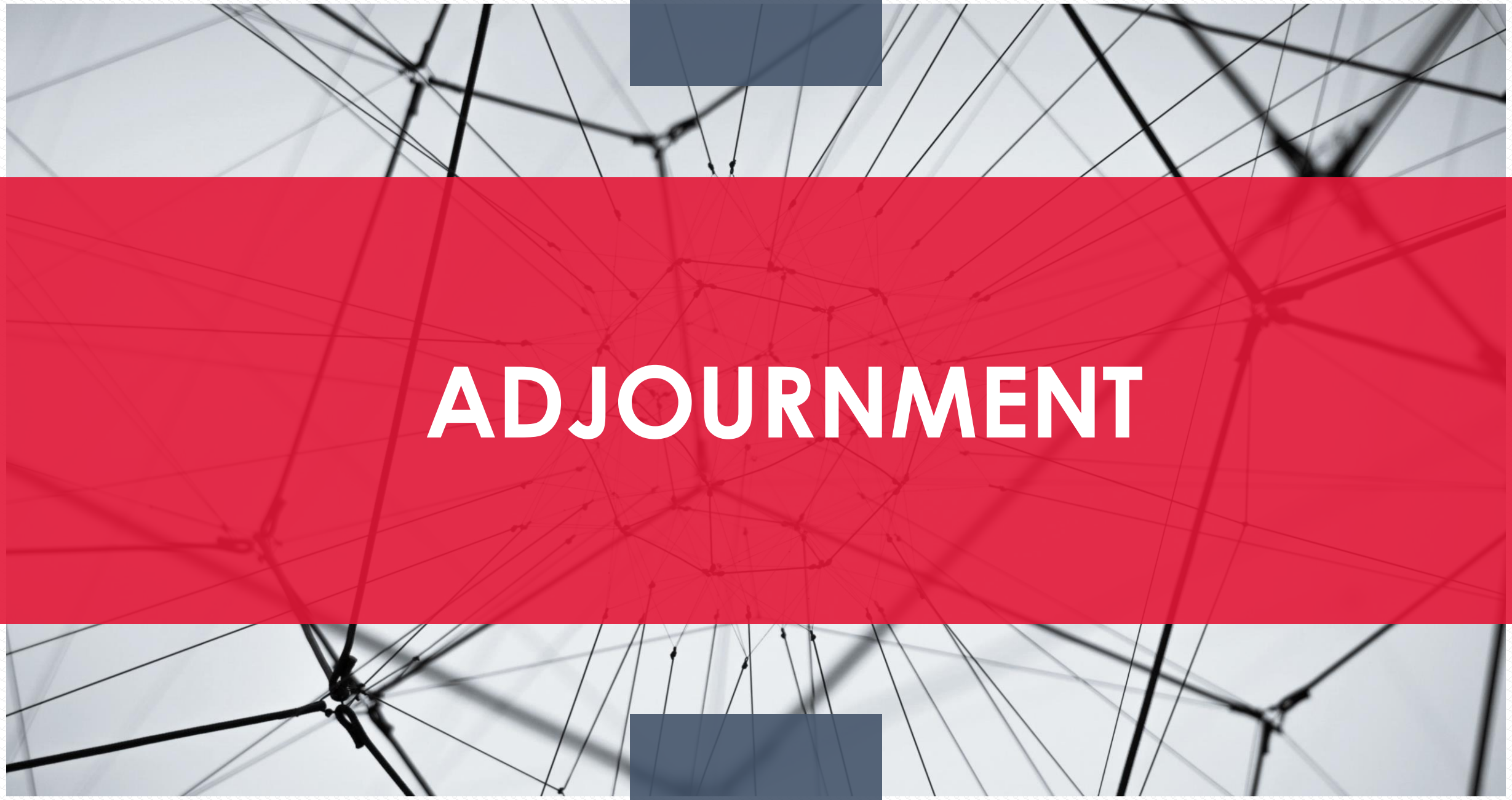
American Jobs Plan

QUESTIONS?

Matt Schmit | Chair
Illinois Broadband Advisory Council
Director | Illinois Office of Broadband
Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
broadband@Illinois.gov

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15



ADJOURNMENT